

JUN 1948

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GENERAL

1. Soviet-Satellite military conference reported in Prague--
The US Military Attache in Prague reports that military representatives from the USSR, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria concluded a secret conference in Prague on 20 June. The MA believes that, in view of the forthcoming Danubian Conference, the main topics of discussion may have been: (a) plans for defense of the Danube and its use as a military supply route; and (b) "general mutual defense measures."

(CIA Comment: In view of the recent Warsaw meeting, such an overall military conference of the Satellites would seem logical at this time. The fact that Poland and Hungary were apparently not represented suggests, however, that the meeting may have been called primarily to discuss plans for the allocation of Czechoslovak arms production to the Balkan Satellites.)

EUROPE

2. GERMANY: Tension growing among Berlin population--US
Ambassador Murphy observes an increasing tension among the population and allied personnel in Berlin. Murphy says that a casual remark by General Clay to the effect that the USSR will not be able to drive the US out of Berlin by any act short of war is being interpreted in Berlin as an ultimatum. Murphy indicates that the city's population is feverishly engrossed with two questions: (a) "will the western allies stay and try"; and (b) "will the food supply be assured?" Murphy reports that the western sectors of the city now have stored sufficient food to meet minimum ration requirements for about six weeks and that the fuel supply necessary for light, power, and water will last approximately three weeks.

(CIA Comment: CIA considers that: (a) the Berlin population is basically anti-Soviet; and (b) the people of Berlin will, from the point of view of self-interest, support the stand of the western powers against Soviet pressure unless it becomes obvious that the US can no longer feed the Germans of the Berlin sector and that a US withdrawal is inevitable.)

State Dept., DIA reviews completed

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3. USSR: Trainload of German officers near Moscow--The US Military Attache in Moscow transmits [redacted]

[redacted] a report that a special train carrying between 300 and 400 men wearing German officer uniforms was seen near Moscow on 24 June. The MA comments on the unusually high priority given to the "rapid movement of these officers." He speculates that the officers "may be destined for Germany for possible use in a separate government in the Soviet Zone."

4. TRIESTE: New Communist strategy--US Political Advisor Joyce reports that the Communist Party in Trieste, following a period of considerable confusion since May Day, has issued new directives for Party strategy and tactics in the US-UK Zone. Joyce states that the new line calls for: (a) exploitation of serious differences which it is asserted have arisen between the US and UK; (b) maximum sabotage of the European recovery program; (c) continued demand for popular elections in an attempt to demonstrate the failure of the US and UK to respect the provisions of the Italian peace treaty; and (d) propaganda emphasis on a promise that Yugoslavia will demand UN approval for the incorporation of the Free Territory of Trieste into the Yugoslav republic.

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